DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This office action is in response to an amendment filed on 3/10/2009.

2. Claims 1 and 13 have been amended by the applicant.

3. Claims 2-5 and 14-16 are original.

Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Joseph Oriti on May 4, 2009.

Amend claims 1 and 14-16 as follows:

Claim 1: A processor-implemented method of keyframing an animation object in an animation implemented at least in part by a computer, the animation including one or more displayed layers, each layer including one or more displayed objects, each object being described by a plurality of properties / attributes ('properties'), the method comprising:

identifying, via the processor, at least one property and a time for the object;

creating a first compound key frame at the time;

receiving a second time for the object;

creating a second compound key frame at the second time;

receiving a change to the at least one property prior to creating the second compound key frame, the second compound key frame incorporating the change to the at least one property; and

performing one of:

creating an attribute key frame responsive to the received change to the at least one property if no attribute key frame exists for the at least one property at the time the received change is received, and

changing an existing attribute key frame responsive to the received change to the at least one property if the existing attribute key frame exists at the time the received change is received, where each attribute key frame is instantiated from a first predetermined type of key frame implemented at a level corresponding to the properties of the object and specific to the at least one property of the object and each compound key frame is instantiated from a second predetermined type of key frame implemented at a level corresponding to the object and specific to all possible properties of the object, and

where a compound key frame is initially set in a timeline to represent all of the properties of a corresponding object when the corresponding object first appears in the animation, and an attribute key frame is subsequently set in the timeline to represent a change to a particular property of the corresponding object when the corresponding object experiences the change in the animation.

Claim 14: The ~~method~~ computer system of claim 13, further comprising receiving additional selection signals indicative of the user interface selection device selecting additional times for the object, and displaying associated compound key frames at each of the additional times on the timeline element.

Claim 15: The ~~method~~ computer system of claim 13, wherein receiving the selection signal indicative of the user interface selection device selecting a second time for the object comprises receiving an execution signal indicative of a user moving a playhead to a position on a timeline in the timeline element, the position corresponding to the second time.

Clam 16: The ~~method~~ computer system of claim 13, further comprising receiving an execution signal indicative of a user selecting an animate mode prior to displaying the first compound key frame.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-5 and 13-16 are allowed. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

In regards to claim 1, the prior art fails to teach or suggest identifying, via the processor, at least one property and a time for the object; creating a first compound key frame at the time; receiving a second time for the object; creating a second compound key frame at the second time; receiving a change to the at least one property prior to creating the second compound key frame, the second compound key frame incorporating the change to the at least one property; and performing one of: creating an attribute key frame responsive to the received change to the at least one property if no attribute key frame exists for the at least one property at the time the received change is received, and changing an existing attribute key frame responsive to the received change to the at least one property if the existing attribute key frame exists at the time the received change is received, where each attribute key frame is instantiated from a first predetermined type of key frame implemented at a level corresponding to the properties of the

object and specific to the at least one property of the object and each compound key frame is instantiated from a second predetermined type of key frame implemented at a level corresponding to the object and specific to all possible properties of the object, and where a compound key frame is initially set in a timeline to represent all of the properties of a corresponding object when the corresponding object first appears in the animation, and an attribute key frame is subsequently set in the timeline to represent a change to a particular property of the corresponding object when the corresponding object experiences the change in the animation, therefore claims 1-5 are allowable.

In regards to claim 13, the prior art fails to teach or suggest receiving a selection signal indicative of the user interface selection device selecting at least one property and a time for the object; displaying a first compound key frame at the time on the timeline element; receiving a selection signal indicative of the user interface selection device selecting a second time for the object; displaying a second compound key frame at the second time on the timeline element; receiving a selection signal indicative of the user interface selection device selecting a change to the at least one property prior to displaying the second compound key frame, the second compound key frame incorporating the change to the at least one property; and performing one of: displaying an attribute key frame responsive to the received change to the at least one property on the timeline element if no attribute key frame exists for the at least one property at the time the received change is received, and changing an existing displayed attribute key frame responsive to the received change to the at least one property if the existing displayed attribute key frame exists at the time the received change is received, where each attribute key frame is instantiated from a first predetermined type of key frame implemented at a level corresponding

to the properties of the object and specific to the at least one property of the object and each compound key frame is instantiated from a second predetermined type of key frame implemented at a level corresponding to the object and specific to all possible properties of the object, and where a compound key frame is initially set in a timeline to represent all of the properties of a corresponding object when the corresponding object first appears in the animation, and an attribute key frame is subsequently set in the timeline to represent a change to a particular property of the corresponding object when the corresponding object experiences the change in the animation, therefore claims 13-16 are allowable..

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SAID BROOME whose telephone number is (571)272-2931. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ulka Chauhan can be reached on (571)272-7782. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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Examiner, Art Unit 2628

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